

In the Claims

1 1. [Original] A method of configuring a hard copy output engine
2 comprising:
3 activating a hot link; and
4 configuring the hard copy output engine using the activated hot link.

1 2. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~
2 ~~configuration plug-in and configuration data include data prepared by~~ configuring
3 comprises:
4 determining a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
5 determining user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard
6 copy output engine.

1 3. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1, ~~wherein downloading~~
2 ~~includes~~ further comprising:
3 sending a first electronic message via the Internet to a website of a
4 vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
5 receiving a second electronic message including the hot link via the
6 Internet in response to the first message.

1 4. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1, ~~wherein downloading~~
2 ~~includes~~ further comprising:
3 sending a first electronic message via the Internet to a website of a
4 vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
5 receiving a second electronic message including the hot link via the
6 Internet in response to sending, wherein sending and receiving include
7 transmission across a firewall.

1 5. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein configuring includes
2 setting a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:
3 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and
4 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output
2 engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers
3 and printers.

1 7. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein configuring includes:
2 determining a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
3 determining a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
4 determining user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard
5 copy output engine.

1 8. [Original] An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable
2 medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to
3 cause a processor to:
4 activate a hot link; and
5 configure the hard copy output engine using the activated hot link.

1 9. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine further includes computer readable code configured to cause
4 the processor to:
5 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
6 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
7 output engine, and wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the
8 processor to configure comprises computer readable code configured to cause
9 the processor to configure the hard copy output engine via an embedded web
10 server contained in the hard copy output engine using the activated hot link.

1 10. [Currently Amended] The article of manufacture of claim 8,
2 wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to
3 download data further includes computer readable code configured to cause the
4 processor to:
5 send a first electronic message ~~across a firewall~~ via the Internet to a
6 website of a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and

7 receive a second electronic message ~~across the firewall~~ including the hot
8 link via the Internet in response to the first electronic message.

1 11. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download data
3 further includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to:
4 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
5 website of a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
6 receive a second electronic message across a firewall via the Internet in
7 response to the first electronic message.

1 12. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the
4 processor to configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data
5 to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:
6 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and
7 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1 13. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the
4 processor to configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a group consisting
5 of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1 14. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine further includes computer readable code configured to cause
4 the processor to:
5 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
6 determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
7 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
8 output engine.

1 15. [Original] A computer implemented control system for a hard copy
2 output engine, the system comprising:
3 memory configured to store a software module; and
4 processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:
5 activate a hot link; and
6 configure the hard copy output engine using the activated hot link.

1 16. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to
3 configure comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module
4 to:
5 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
6 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
7 output engine, and wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the
8 software module to configure comprises processing circuitry configured to
9 employ the software module to configure the hard copy output engine via an
10 embedded web server contained in the hard copy output engine using the
11 activated hot link.

1 17. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to
3 configure includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to
4 configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data to set a
5 threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of: pigmentation
6 material, marking material, number of hours of operation and number of sheets
7 of print media consumed.

1 18. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module further
3 includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:
4 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
5 website of a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and

6 receive a second electronic message across the firewall via the Internet in
7 response to the first electronic message.

1 19. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the hard copy output engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile
3 machines, photocopiers and printers.

1 20. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module further
3 comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:
4 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
5 determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
6 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
7 output engine.

1 21. [Original] A computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave
2 carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to:
3 activate a hot link; and
4 configure the hard copy output engine using the activated hot link.

1 22. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine further
4 includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying
5 instructions that cause the processor to:
6 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
7 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
8 output engine, and wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the
9 carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to configure
10 comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to
11 configure the hard copy output engine via an embedded web server contained in
12 the hard copy output engine using the activated hot link.

1 23. [Currently Amended] The computer instruction signal of claim 21,
2 wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying
3 instructions that cause the processor to download data further includes a
4 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
5 that cause the processor to:

6 send a first electronic message ~~across a firewall~~ via the Internet to a
7 website of a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and

8 receive a second electronic message ~~across the firewall~~ including the hot
9 link via the Internet in response to the first electronic message.

1 24. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to download data further includes a computer
4 instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause
5 the processor to:

6 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
7 website of a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and

8 receive a second electronic message across a firewall via the Internet in
9 response to the first electronic message.

1 25. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a
4 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
5 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine using the
6 downloaded data to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group
7 consisting of: pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of
8 operation and number of sheets of print media consumed.

1 26. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a
4 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions

5 that cause the processor to configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a
6 group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1 27. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine further
4 includes a computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying
5 instructions that cause the processor to:

6 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
7 determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
8 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
9 output engine.

1 28. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output
2 engine comprises an engine configured to form hard images upon media.

1 29. [New] The method of claim 28, wherein the media is paper, and
2 wherein the engine forms the hard images by disposing a marking agent on the
3 paper.

1 30. [New] A hard image forming system comprising:

2 a hard imaging device comprising:

3 an image engine configured to access image data and to provide a
4 marking agent upon media to form a hard image corresponding to the image
5 data; and

6 a communications interface configured to implement
7 communications externally of the hard imaging device using a communications
8 system; and

9 a configuration device comprising:

10 a communications interface configured to couple with the hard
11 imaging device using the communications system;

12 a display device configured to depict visual images including a hot
13 link, and wherein the hot link comprises a communications address of the hard

14 imaging device;
15 an input device configured to receive input of a user to activate the
16 hot link; and
17 processing circuitry configured to establish a connection with the
18 hard imaging device via the communications system using the communications
19 address of the hot link responsive to activation of the hot link by the user and to
20 configure an operation of the hard imaging device using the connection.

1 31. [New] The system of claim 30, wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to configure the operation responsive to an other input of a user.

1 32. [New] The system of claim 30, wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to determine a threshold of a consumable consumed by the hard
3 imaging device to configure the operation.

1 33. [New] The system of claim 30, wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to determine a make and a model of the hard imaging device to
3 configure the operation.

1 34. [New] The system of claim 30, wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to determine a serial number of the hard imaging device to configure
3 the operation.

1 35. [New] The system of claim 30, wherein the processing circuitry is
2 configured to control the communications interface of the configuration device
3 to output a first message, and wherein the communications interface is
4 configured to receive a second message comprising the hot link responsive to
5 the outputting of the first message.

1 36. [New] The system of claim 30, wherein the connection comprises
2 a firewall.